

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11

SAM-01 ACDA-05 /082 W

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O R 181645Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7601

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL CURACAO UNN

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0841

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS RECOGNIZES MPLA

REF: THE HAGUE 0825

1. AS EXPECTED, GON RECOGNIZED PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA FEB 18
AS "INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATE" AND EXPRESSED WISH TO ESTAB-
LISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THIS WAS CONFIRMED IN MESSAGE FROM

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FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL TO ANGOLA MINISTER DOS SANTOS.
STEP WAS TAKEN AFTER OBTAINING NETHERLANDS ANTILLES APPROVAL

FEB 13.

2. MFA SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BLOODSHED WILL SOON END AND PEACE RESTORED. HE SAID GON REJECTED EVERY FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND VOICED EXPECTATION THAT ALL FOREIGN TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. AFTERNOON OF FEB 18 MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR CHARLES RUTTEN CALLED IN DCM TO EXPLAIN SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING TUP TO DUTCH RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA. HE DESCRIBED FRENCH INITIATIVE IN LUXEMBOURG FEB 13 WHEN FRENCH AMBASSADOR CONVENED EC-9 AMBASSADORS TO URGE IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION. OUTCOME OF THAT MEETING WAS AGREEMENT TO DEFER MATTER UNTIL POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING FEB 16. AT THAT TIME, ACCORDING TO RUTTEN, FRENCH ARGUED STRONGLY FOR RECOGNITION ON GROUNDS THAT WESTERN PRESENCE WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE COUNTERWEIGHT TO CUBAN AND SOVIET INFLUENCE. ALL AGREED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH POLITICAL COUNTERWEIGHT WAS DESIRABLE BUT NONE WERE PREPARED TO MAKE IMMEDIATE COMMITMENT TO RECOGNITION. RUTTEN SAID GERMANS IN PARTICULAR HAD ARGUED FOR DEFERMENT ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL GROUNDS BECAUSE FRG GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY UNDER ATTACK FROM OPPOSITION FOR BEING SOFT ON COMMUNISM IN CONTEXT OF FORTHCOMING RATIFICATION OF GERMAN-POLISH TREATY. EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO DEFER MATTER UNTIL EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING FEB 23 BUT FRENCH HAD BEEN DAMANT.

4. RUTTEN REFERRED TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF DUTCH RECOGNITION AND CALLED ATTENTION TO EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS NOT A CONDITION AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, INDICATED THAT FURTHER DUTCH STEPS WOULD DEPEND ON RESPONSE TO FOREIGN MINISTERS'S MESSAGE. HE ADDED THAT ACTION TODAY HAD COME AFTER DUTCH WERE INFORMED OF BRITISH INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE THIS AFTERNOON AND ALSO TOOK ACCOUNT OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES FROM LABOR PARTY. GOULD

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